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 INFORMATION REPORT

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO. (b)(1)
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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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1. In 1953 a new reloading station was built in Loubi near Decin by the Czechoslovak Elbe-Oder Navigation (CSPLO). It consists of two large three-story storage buildings which are served by four hoists with a maximum capacity of three tons each.
2. According to employees of the CSPLO, the Czechoslovak Ministry of Transport is thinking of transferring the major part of Czech shipping from Hamburg to Szczecin (Stettin), which is becoming a major port for the satellite countries. The Czechs fear possible restriction of their shipping activities in Hamburg by the British. Allegedly the British refused to issue permits (sic) for 260 new Czech sailors in Hamburg. Such difficulties, which might endanger the Czechoslovak export trade, are to be solved by the transfer to Szczecin. One difficulty with the proposed change does exist, however; the Oder River has not been internationalized. In line with the proposed transfer of operations to Szczecin Czechoslovak river traffic from the Elbe would be routed via German canal to the Oder. If the transfer can be effected, navigation on the Elbe River through Germany to Hamburg would be cancelled.
3. Each large vessel (steamship, motorship, etc.) operated by the CSPLO is to be assigned a politically oriented worker who will be responsible for the entire crew of the vessel. Officially he will be second in command of the ship, but he will not do any of the regular work. He will be independent but will keep in contact with the CSPLO stations or the main offices via a short-wave transmitter placed at his disposal.
4. In Hamburg, the CSPLO has purchased real estate valued at 200,000 DMW, which is to be used for construction of a new port station. It will house the CSPLO lunchroom and will provide recreational facilities, a library, and its own doctor's office. Previously, the sailors had gone to German doctors. A winter school for employees is to be conducted in the new buildings in order to give them something to do during the idle winter season and in order to provide a vacation residence for employees stationed in Hamburg during the winter.
5. A new heating material, "pakura", is to be used for the ships' boilers

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aboard CSPL0 vessels. It is a wax-like material which remains after the process of refining naptha, and it is about 100 degrees high temp. It is being imported mainly from Rumania. The use of *petura* necessitates a different type of furnaces. The heated *petura* is added under pressure with oxygen and is fed into the furnaces under pressure.

6. Sailors of the CSPL0 arriving in Hamburg are no longer allowed to make personal phone calls. Only business calls are permitted.

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The Rumania *petura* means coal tar.

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